

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 /068 W

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O 210957Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7795
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, KN, KS
SUBJECT: PRAVDA REPORTS KOREAN INCIDENT

1. PRAVDA (AUGUST 21) CARRIES THE FIRST SOVIET MEDIA REPORT WE HAVE NOTED OF THE AUGUST 18 INCIDENT AT PANMUNJOM. THE REPORT, DATED AUGUST 20 FROM PRAVDA'S CORRESPONDENT IN PYONGYANG, IS CAREFULLY SOURCED TO SOUTH AND NORTH KOREAN PRESS STATEMENTS. IT IMPLIES THAT THE U.S. AND SOUTH KOREA ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INCREASED TENSIONS, BUT AVOIDS ANY DIRECT OR IMPLIED COMMENT ON THE INCIDENT ITSELF. IT THUS APPEARS TO BE A MINIMAL SOVIET RESPONSE. ITEM IS NOT CARRIED IN MINDEF ORGAN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

2. THE ARTICLE BEGINS BY CITING THE SOUTH KOREAN PRESS AGENCY "HABTON" (PHONETIC) THAT U.S. AND SOUTH KOREAN FORCES IN SOUTH KOREA HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ALERT AND THAT F-4 AND F-111 SQUADRONS FROM OKINAWA AND THE U.S. HAVE BEEN FLOWN IN. THIS
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"WAR PSYCHOSIS" IN SOUTH KOREA WAS TRIGGERED, PRAVDA CONTINUES,

BY "AN INCIDENT" AT PANMUNJOM IN WHICH "A CLASH" HAD RESULTED IN "DEATHS AND INJURIES." PRAVDA THEN QUOTES THE NORTH KOREAN CENTRAL PRESS AGENCY (TSTAK) THAT THE CLASH WAS PROVOKED BY THE U.S. - SOUTH KOREAN SIDE. THE NORTH KOREAN PRESS, SAYS PRAVDA, PUBLISHED A TSTAK STATEMENT WHICH "RESOLUTELY CONDEMNED" THE "PROVOCATIVE INCIDENT" ORGANIZED BY THE U.S. - SOUTH KOREAN SIDE AND SAID THAT IT APPEARED TO BE A PREMEDITATED "CRIMINAL ACT" WHICH WAS INTENDED TO HEIGHTEN TENSIONS IN THE REGION.

3. PRAVDA DOES NOT DESCRIBE OR COMMENT ON THE INCIDENT ITSELF, NOR DOES IT IDENTIFY THOSE KILLED OR INJURED.

4. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE, PRAVDA'S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT REPORTS THAT NEW YORK TIMES "FINANCIAL OBSERVER A. HAMMER" WROTE THAT THE TENSIONS IN KOREA HAD CONTRIBUTED TO A DROP IN THE STOCK MARKET. STOESEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, COMMUNISTS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: PRAVDA REPORTS KOREAN INCIDENT
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